

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 888
By Trail

A RESOLUTION to recognize Emil Hassan on the occasion of his retirement as Senior Vice President of Nissan North America.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Emil Hassan is one such estimable person who has served with distinction for twenty-three years with Nissan North America; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jerusalem, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, after working as an executive at Ford Motor Company, he joined Nissan in 1981 when the company expanded into Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, in the years since, the company has flourished under his guidance, particularly since he became Senior Vice President in 2000; his duties in that position have included North American manufacturing, purchasing, quality, and logistics; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Hassan's leadership, Nissan North America has experienced the most significant business turnaround in automotive history, and he has stated that it "has been gratifying to see Nissan go from its deathbed to become the company with the highest operating margin among automotive companies in the world"; and

WHEREAS, the company's success has also insulated the Smyrna area from the recent economic slowdown because Nissan has continued to expand and hire; Mr. Hassan has led Nissan's expansion in both Smyrna and Decherd; and

WHEREAS, in a statement accompanying the company's announcement of Mr. Hassan's retirement, President and CEO Carlos Ghosn stated, "Emil has played a vital role in Nissan's swift return to profitability. He has made greatly needed changes in the North American

purchasing organization and led the effort to quickly expand Nissan's manufacturing capacity in the U.S. and Mexico"; and

WHEREAS, Edward Lapham, Executive Editor of *Automotive News*, credited the company's rise in North America to Mr. Hassan's "manufacturing savvy", and the magazine also named Mr. Hassan as one of the top automotive executives in the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hassan is also an active and invaluable member of his community and has had a laudable impact on Rutherford County; in 1996, he received the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award for volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Chamber President Steve Benefield commented, "I can't pat him on the back enough for what he's meant to us in this community. Fortunately, he's going to stay involved with the Chamber's Business and Education Partnership and will continue to contribute to a program that he's had a great interest in"; and

WHEREAS, while he is taking a much deserved retirement on April 1, 2004, he will continue to assist Nissan as a consultant to Ghosn and will serve as Chairman and CEO of Distribution and Auto Service, a Nissan affiliate; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to upholding the highest standards of family and community values, he also plans to "relax and catch up with [his] grandkids"; and

WHEREAS, Emil Hassan exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Hassan has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Emil Hassan our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement from his position as Senior Vice President of Nissan North America and for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.